

first signal peptide domain comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33, SEQ ID NO: 35, SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 39 and SEQ ID NO: 41, and

at least one second exon encoding a B7-1 or B7-2 second signal peptide domain, wherein the T cell costimulatory molecule comprises the second signal peptide domain, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to the complement of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14 under conditions of 5.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 55°C and 5% SDS, followed by a wash in 2.0 x SSC at about 55°C.

82. (NEW) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 81, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 under conditions of 5.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 55°C and 5% SDS, followed by a wash in 2.0 x SSC at about 55°C.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 30-31, 33-47, 60-61, 63-65, 69-71, and 75-77 have been canceled. The cancellation of these claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence by Applicants to any of the rejections of record involving these claims.

Claims 78 through 82 have been newly added. Support for new claims 78 through 82 can be found in the claims as previously pending and at least at page 38, lines 1-5 of the specification.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

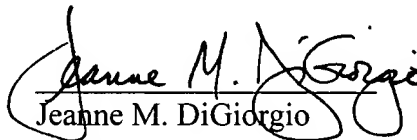
Amendment of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to expedite prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe newly added claims 78-82 are enabled, distinctly claimed, and inventive. Accordingly, allowance is requested.

If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would help expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne M. DiGiorgio", is written over a horizontal line.

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